

REMARKS

Claims 41-48 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 41-48 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Mruk in the April 29, 2008 telephone interview. Applicants separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

During the April 29 telephone interview, Applicants' representative discussed the previous rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 set forth in the January 10, 2008 Office Action. Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of the April 23 Office Action and the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102.

The Office Action rejects claims 41-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,667,795 to Shigemura. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the interpretation, or application, of the applied reference, and solely to advance prosecution of this application, claims 41-44 are amended to clarify relevant features. The applied reference cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested such combinations of features for at least the following reasons.

Claim 41 recites, among other features, a plurality of ejection heads which are arranged in a first direction that is perpendicular to a head scan direction arranged on a print head, each ejection head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting a filter material in droplets, the plurality of nozzles linearly arranged with a constant layout pitch of (D), the plurality of ejection heads are arranged on the print head to form at least one linear row of nozzles arranged in the first direction, wherein at least one of the ejection heads is configured to eject a first type of filter material, and at least another of the ejection heads is configured to eject a

second type of filter material, and the at least one and another ejection heads are arranged in the first direction. Claims 42-44 recite similar features.

The Office Action apparently interprets an arrangement of the ejection heads in Shigemura, and row of nozzles, to be along a head scan direction prior to rotation, and then interprets a plurality of first, second and third nozzles arranged in a same line after rotation. However, such features do not reasonably correspond to a first direction in which (1) the plurality of ejection heads are arranged, (2) the at least one linear row of nozzles is arranged, and (3) at least two of the ejection heads, that are configured to eject different types of filter material, are arranged. Aspects of the above features are depicted, in exemplary manner, in Fig. 3 of Applicants' disclosure.

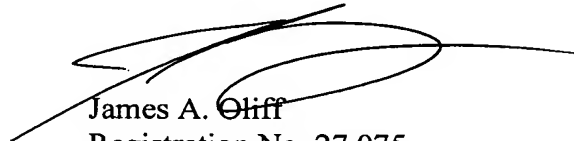
For at least the above reasons, the applied reference cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of features positively recited in independent claims 41-44. Additionally, claims 45-48 would also not have been reasonably suggested by the applied reference for at least the respective dependence of these claims, directly or indirectly, on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 41-48 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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